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**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
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Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP
Attn: Gregory M. Stone
Seven Saint Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202-1626

In re application of:

Terry L. Rein Sr., et al.

Application No. 10/623,766

Filed: July 21, 2003

For: MINING DRILL STEELS

: **DECISION ON REQUEST**
: **FOR WITHDRAWAL OF**
: **ATTORNEY**

This is a decision on the request filed on April 29, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. Besides giving due notice to his or her client and delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled as specified under 37 CFR 10.40, approval of such a request requires that the following conditions be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided; and
- C) If withdrawal is requested in accordance with 37 CFR 10.40(c) above, there must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The request to withdraw as attorney is not accepted in the above-identified application because the request lacks conditions A) and C) above.

As to condition A), the attorney Gregory M. Stone does not have power of attorney in this application. There is no record of power of attorney ever being given to the attorney making the request.

As to condition C) there is no longer 30 days for the applicant to respond to the outstanding Office action mailed April 26, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SNM', is written over a horizontal line.

Steven N. Meyers
Special Programs Examiner
Patent Technology Center 3600
(703) 308-3868

SNM/dcg: 10/19/04